trates. The clearing of these channels should also be taken under Government supervision, lengths being marked off for the respective raiyats as tank bunds are marked off for turfing and maintenance, and the raiyats' liability enforced in each case. At present the interests of the more distant lands are neglected.

Dewan's reply.—The Public Works Department are grading and fixing pipe sluices in main channels under tanks where these are of magnitude (as under Madak tank). Similar facilities can also be afforded elsewhere if the raiyats agree to pay for them. But in all cases the raiyats must themselves maintain these channels in good order, apportioning the entire length among themselves according to custom. Liability according to such customary division we can enforce, as is done under the orders of October 1873 in the case of tank bunds. When disputes arise because the Mamul is not known, we have to enquire and ascertain and, if necessary, make a fresh settlement and record it. Supply of water also by turns or otherwise should be according to custom. Where local officers in any individual case do not enforce these principles, complain by petition and redress will be granted. In regard to Nirgantis they cannot be expected to do their duties without remuneration. It does not seem to be generally known that Nirgantis have a legal claim to Miras which Revenue officers are bound to enforce. The representations in the course of this discussion have come chiefly from the Tumkur District. It is unfortunate that the Deputy Commissioner is not present. He will be instructed.

[*Note.*—Individual cases of tanks in Tumkur District were mentioned, and it was members from the Tumkur District that chiefly complained in this matter.]

Subject No. 22.

Irrigation cess on lands irrigated by private wells.

Summary of discussion.—Irrigation cess should not be levied on lands irrigated by private wells.

Dewan's reply.—The cess ought not to be levied on what are called Kushki Bagayet lands, *i. e.*, dry lands irrigated by private wells. But it is payable on lands classed as wet and irrigated by wells under tanks or other Government sources of water-supply. Returns from Districts have been called for and the subject is under disposal by Government.

Subject No. 23.

Weed clearing in River Channels.

Summary of discussion.—At present raiyats are required to clear weeds in River channels, while the task of removing silt devolves on the Public Works Department. As there is no equitable division of raiyats' liability, the poorer or the less influential raiyat or he who has some status to lose is harassed more than others. Oftentimes raiyats are required to go long distances to clear the weeds. In the result work is ill done and not finished in proper time. Either the head sluice has to be kept closed longer than usual, in which case the out-cry is universal, or if water be let into the channel,